

## RUSSIA AND THE WEST IN IRAN

languished until the entry of Soviet troops into Iran in 1941. Released as a result of foreign invasion and the subsequent amnesty to all political prisoners, the Communist leaders proceeded quickly, with apparent Soviet aid, to organize the new Communist party. The name given it this time was *Tudeh*, which means "the masses." The party was officially created in January, 1942, and was, of course, an open and legal political organization enjoying the freedom of the new Iranian wartime "democracy." Among the founders of the party were Reza Rusta, released from jail, to become famous later through his activities among the workers of the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company; Abol Qasim Assadi; Iraj Iskandari; Dr. Morteza Yazdi; and Dr. Reza Radmanesh. Somewhat later they were joined by twenty other leftists, among whom Ja'afar Pischevari became widely known as a result of the role he was to play in Azerbaijan. Pischevari had a long and stormy career as a Communist. Born in Iranian Azerbaijan in 1888, he went to Baku in 1904 and stayed there until the revolution. In 1918 he arrived in Iran with the Red Army under the name of Seyyid Ja'afar Badku Bayi. In 1920 he became Minister of Interior of the Revolutionary Gilan Republic. After its collapse he went to Russia and became active in the Comintern under the name of Sultan-zadeh. His Comintern errands took him to a number of countries in the Middle East including Abyssinia. Pretending to be a victim of Soviet purges in 1936, Pischevari reappeared in Iran. The Iranian government watched him closely and kept him in protective custody in Kashan. As a result of the amnesty in 1941 Pischevari was released. He went to

Teheran, became editor of the daily *Aihir*, and helped found the Tudeh.

The organization of the party followed the pattern of other Communist parties. It had a Central Executive Committee of ten members<sup>3i</sup> and a Control Commission of eight members.<sup>35</sup> Its affairs were

a\* Members of the Central Executive Committee elected in August, 1944, were Nur ed-Din Alamuti, Parvin Gonabadi, Ardeshir (an Armenian deputy), Ehsan Tabari, Iraj Iskandari, All Amirkhazi, Dr. Reza Radmanesh, Mahmud Boghrati, Abdosamad Kambakhsh, and **Dr.** Keshavarz.

<sup>35</sup> The Control Commission as of August, 1944, was composed of Dr. Morteza Yazdi, **Dr.** Jowlal, Abdol Hosein Nushin, AH Alavi, Reza Rusta, Ahmad Qasimi, Dr. Kianuri, and Zia Alamuti.